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Bosnia and Herzegovina

Post: Sarajevo

Animal Genetics Update

Report Categories:

Livestock and Products

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Report Highlights:

The market for bovine semen in Bosnia and Herzegovina is estimated to be about 350,000 - 400,000 doses annually. Domestic production is approximately 150,000 doses. Bovine genetic imports are a mixture of dual use and dairy cows, mostly from European countries. Import tariffs range from zero to ten percent for animal genetics. Embryo transfer has been applied in BiH only for experimental purposes and there have been no commercial activities.

General Information:

Author Defined:

Summary

Supply of deep-frozen semen to the BiH market is done in two ways:

1. Through the Veterinary-Cattle Center in Banja Luka that produces deep-frozen bull semen and is the only production facility of this kind in BiH. Its annual semen production is approximately 150,000 doses.
2. Through two main commercial semen importers and distributors:
 - BOSNA VET doo from Zenica is an importer and distributor of deep frozen semen from Austria, Germany, Slovenia, and Croatia. Its annual distribution is approximately 150,000 doses.
 - UNA VET doo from Sarajevo is an importer and distributor of deep frozen semen from Austria and Slovenia. Its annual distribution is approximately 80,000 doses.

Monitoring and quality control for imported semen is mainly done at the Veterinary Faculty Sarajevo.

Storage and distribution of frozen semen is regulated by law that stipulates technical requirements that distributors should fulfill to obtain a license from the Entity Ministry of Agriculture. The State Veterinary Office issues a permit for semen imports that must be obtained for each shipment. Semen shipments are subject to veterinary border inspection and are put into quarantine for a certain period.

Only recently has the private sector attempted to do embryo transfers. Thus far, embryo transfer has been used in BiH only for experimental purposes and there have been no commercial activities.

The price of artificial insemination paid by farmers to official veterinarians averages 30 KM (around \$20.00) for the first insemination. The use of semen produced by elite bulls has been poor. The price of a semen dose sold to veterinary station is around 5-6 KM per dose (\$3.50-4.00).

Background

Artificial insemination was introduced in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) in the 1950's to prevent the spread of infectious diseases among animals during reproduction and also to improve animal production in general. It has been traditionally done through a network of veterinary stations by official veterinarians. Farmers are not allowed to perform artificial insemination.

The BiH livestock sector was seriously damaged during the 1992-1995 war. During that time livestock losses were estimated at 80%. Since then, the poultry and pork sub-sectors have nearly recovered and are approaching pre-war numbers, while the cattle and sheep sectors are still recovering.

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, cattle are usually used for both milk and meat production (mostly local Busa breed, Simmental and assorted crossbreeds). Before the war, large state-owned dairy farms imported mostly Holstein breed and achieved positive production results. Cattle fattening was based mostly on the Simmental breed.

Generally, current production levels of meat and milk are poor due to a lack of access to high-energy feeds and haphazard genetic improvement plans.

According to existing regulations, all cattle should be artificially inseminated (AI) or mated with a licensed bull. However, there are no instruments that would successfully enforce these regulations to a larger extent. Controlled and artificial inseminations have been used in only about 30%-to-40% of animals. Since some levels of the government subsidize AI of animals in some areas of the country, the percentage is slightly higher for such areas.

Import Procedures

Prior approval by the Entity Ministries of Agriculture must be requested for imports of live animals. The State Veterinary Office issues a final import permit for live animals and for imported semen. Importers of semen should provide a progeny test. Importers should register with the SVO first time they import into BiH.

Prior approvals for live animals:

F BiH Ministry of Agriculture, Water Management and Forestry
Veterinary Department
Titova 15
71 000 Sarajevo
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Tel/fax +387 (33) 445 258
E-mail: pomocnikzavet@bih.net.ba
<http://www.fmpvs.gov.ba/>

RS Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management
Veterinary Department
Trg Republike Srpske 1
78000 Banja Luka
Tel: +387 51 338 388
Fax: +387 51 338 886
<http://www.vladars.net/lt/min/mps.html>
E-mail: mps@mps.vladars.net

Final import permits for live animals and semen:

State Veterinary Office
Radiceva 8/II
7100 Sarajevo
Contact person: Zeljko Kovac
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Tel. +387 33 565 714
Fax +387 33 565 725
E-mail: info@vet.gov.ba
<http://www.vet.gov.ba/>

Tariffs

Table 1:– Import Tariffs for Live Animals and Bulls Semen, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Commodity	Import Tariff
Breeding heifers	5%
Breeding cows	10%
Breeding sows	0%
Breeding sheep	0%
Breeding goats	0%
Bulls' semen	5%